[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—DISCUSSION *RE* ANSWERING OF STARRED QUESTIONS.

MR. SPEAKER : The other day, the hon. Member Sri Nagaraja Monigar wanted to know whether the Hon. Minister cannot answer a question even though the questioning Member is absent. I would like to refer him to rule 34 (2) of the Assembly Rules which reads as follows :—

'If on a question being called, a member in whose name it stands is absent, the Speaker at the request of any Member may direct that the answer to it be given.'

That is the custom we are following. When no other Member stands, in the absence of the questioning Member, I presume that nobody is willing to ask the question and therefore pass on to the next question. (The hon. Member Sri Monigar was seen to rise in his place). No further discussion on this.

SRI S. LAZAR : May I request the Hon. Speaker to see whether any other Member is putting the question before passing on to the next question. From the rule read by the Hon. Speaker, it is clear that if any other Member requests the Speaker that the question be answered, the Speaker can allow the question to be answered by the Hon. Minister.

SRI M. P. SUBRAMANIAM : That is what is being done now.

MR. SPEAKER : I suppose that is what is happening now. I look round and if any Member stands, I allow the question to be answered.

SRI S. LAZAR : Instead of hurrying through . . .

MR. SPEAKER : There must be a limit to the waiting. If no hon. Member stands up in time, I have to presume that nobody is interested. If any hon. Member stands up as soon as I call the question, then I take it that he is interested and allow the Hon. Minister to answer the question.

SRI S. NAGARAJA MONIGAR : Sir, I have made a general request to you that whenever the Hon. Minister desires to answer the question, he may allow one or two supplementary questions on it.

MR. SPEAKER : Rules of the Assembly are being amended and when they come up before this House, the hon. Member may move an amendment to the relevant rule.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Since we have got ten more minutes, I request the Chair to increase the number of questions per day from 30 to 40.

MR. SPEAKER : Every day I have to make three announcements and sometimes a statement under Rule 40 has to be made. Of course, we sometimes finish the questions earlier but sometimes

19th March 1959] [Mr. Speaker]

we finish them just in time. I have no objection to put 40 questions but if they are not finished within the time-limit, then we will have to encroach up on the time allotted for the discussion on Demands. Hon. Members are aware that the motion under Rule 40 takes ten minutes and announcements another ten minutes. If they are prepared to sit for ten more minutes beyond 1-30 p.m., I have no objection to increase the number of questions. So, it is only in the general interest of all of us, that we better restrict it to 30 or 35 questions.

SRI R. SRINIVASA IYER : Sir, even the present rate of 30 questions, allows only two minutes for each question. If the number of questions, is increased, some questions cannot be answered and even supplementary questions cannot be put. Many of us are thinking whether it would not be better to reduce the number of questions to 20. Even with 30 questions per day, if all the questions are not finished, the unfinished questions may be carried over to the next day.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us not prolong the discussion on the matter.

III.—ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(1) RECOMMENDATION OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday the Business Advisory Committee met and decided that in all probability this Assembly may adjourn on the 30th March instead of on the 31st March. On the 30th March the Appropriation Bill and other Official Bills will be taken up for consideration. So, hon. Members can make their own arrangements to leave the station on the 30th March 1959.

(2) NOMINATION OF CHAIRMAN TO THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES.

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday I informed the House that I would announce the Chairman of the Privileges Committee to-day. Under sub-rule (4) of Rule 178 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I nominate Sri A. Vedarathnam Pillai to be the Chairman of the Committee of Privileges.

IV.—PRIVILEGE MOTION *RE* PUBLICATION OF AN INCORRECT REPORT IN THE 'MAIL',

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday the hon. Member Sri Srinivasa Iyer raised a privilege issue with regard to the report of his speech in '*The Madras Mail*'. I have to inform the House that I had a talk with the Chief Reporter of '*The Madras Mail*' and I am glad to say that he has given me a copy of '*The Madras Mail*' in which there is not only a correction but also an expression of regret for having published a wrong report. Under the circumstances, I suggest that the matter be dropped and no further action be taken.